years, from 1996-97 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The present supply of gas from Tapti fields is in the order of 5.5 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD). It was decided in 1989 to allocate gas from the yet to be developed Mid & South Tapti fields to a power project to be put up at Pipavav and take gas from Gandhar fields to the HBJ pipeline system. However, subsequently, keeping in view the fact that the investment decision to develop Mid & South Tapti fields were yet to be taken, it was agreed to allocate the Gandhar gas for two gas based power projects of 600 MW each in Gandhar area and to take to gas from Mid & South Tapti fields to meet the existing commitments along the HBJ pipeline system.

Production of crude oil in Assam

853. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether existing production level of crude oil would meet the requirements of the refineries of Assam; and

(b) if not, what is the action plan initiated by Government for enhancement of crude production in the State as also to import crude by connecting additional crude pipelines from outside the State/ expanding the existing capacities of Barauni-Naharkatiya crude pipeline connecting Numaligarh Refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The action plan formulated to boost production of hydrocarbons in Assam includes:—

(i) Effective reservoir management through infill drilling, redistribution of water injection and installation/optimisation of lift mechanism.

(ii) 3-D Seismic Surveys for better reservoir delineation and to identify deeper prospects within existing producing areas.

(iii) Faster development of new discoveries.

(iv) Sand control and water shut off jobs.

(v) Accelerated exploration for accretion of more crude oil reserves.

(vi) Engagement of consultants for field specific problems.

(vii) State of the art geoscientific studies for basin modelling.

To meet the shortfall in the crude oil requirement of Bongaigaon Refinery, action has been initiated to supply imported crude to Bongaigaon Refinery from Haldia *via* Barauni. This will be done by augmenting the capacity of the existing crude oil pipeline from Haldia to Barauni and by carrying out modifications in the existing crude oil pipeline from Barauni to Bongaigaon, to enable reverse pumping of imported crude oil.

Extra benefits offered under NELP to North Eastern region

854. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any extra benefits are offered under New Exploration and Licence Policy (NELP) for the North Eastern region;

(b) whether these benefits are considered more than enough to attract Private investors/foreign firms to undertake exploration and production activities in the States;

(c) if so, how much blocks with sq. kms, have been earmarked under NELP; and

(d) whether earmarked blocks cover nominal area than other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The terms and conditions for offer of